

skepticism to faith—the faith and hope that sustained a bedraggled army through many more years of war in the final victory that gave this country its independence.

Nothing George Washington ever wrote or said has been more often quoted than the prayer with which he ended his inaugural address in 1789. This brief invocation of God's mercies upon the new nation and its people somehow contains the very essence of Washington's patriotism, his belief in democracy, his dedication to the great ideal of Christianity—love of fellowman. May I conclude by reciting this prayer:

“Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.”

Let us repeat that prayer, here today and wherever we may be in years to come, when we pause to pay our respects to this greatest of all Americans.